



The Warriors' Project

For the past three summers, African American and American Indian students have been working together under the guidance of Dr. Eleanor King (Howard University) and Charles Haecker (NPS) on an ongoing archaeological project at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Students spent part of their summer breaks participating in a two-week archaeological field school excavating the campsites of Mescalero Apaches and Buffalo Soldiers. Where in the past, these two groups fought for control of the lands of West Texas and New Mexico, today they have been brought together seeking an understanding of their mutual histories.

The area they concentrated their efforts is not very far from the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs. Previous archaeological work on the camp located below Pine Springs began in 1970 by the Texas Archaeological School. Researchers documented several hearths in a north-trending line pointed toward Upper Pine Springs and a number of picket lines. Research was renewed and expanded in 1997 and 1998 by Charles Haecker. He further mapped the area and using a metal detector, unearthed several artifacts. He confirmed the original researchers’ speculation that the area was used in the mid to late 1800s.

The hearths in the Pine Springs consist of thin, dark gray limestone lined in a circle around sandstone. The amount of ash discovered in the hearths indicate the areas were used for extensive periods of time. Searching through historic records, it is apparent that Captain Lebo, Company K, 10th Cavalry, of Ft. Davis, occupied the area in 1878 and 1879. In 1878, the cavalry was also accompanied by 25th Infantry.



Joe Comanche of Mescalero, New Mexico, sifts through Guadalupe soil in search of artifacts and a tangible connection to the past. NPS Photo/Michael Haynie

Typically, small groups would make 10-day trips into the mountains and surrounding country side. Camping at the springs provided a crucial but rare resource while at the same denied it from being used by the Apaches.

Other rocks around the hearths probably helped support canvas and wood tents. The tents provided shelter for 4-5 soldiers. Cooking was done in the tent. Researchers have found nails, used in construction of rations boxes, and can lids. Standard meals for the

time would have been salt bacon, hard tack, beans, and coffee.

The team of students and professional archaeologists discovered a number of artifacts that shed light on camp life. An old tobacco patch was found as well as a pen nub (the metal tip of an ink pen). Smoking around the campfire and possibly writing letters or reports were part of the experience around camp. Bullet casings were also found, one dating from 1878. This finding is consistent with the historic see WARRIORS on pg. 7...

Exploring Nature's Plumbing System—A Virtual Field Trip

by Marjorie Thomas

What does it take to successfully get 37 million students and teachers, the First Lady Laura Bush and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella to visit Carlsbad Caverns National Park all at the same time?

It took nearly four miles of cable snaked down a 750-foot elevator shaft and around the Big Room of Carlsbad Cavern; Ball State University’s electronic field trip behind-the-scenes staff of ten, plus two camera operators, four audio engineers, a technical director, a satellite engineer, a lighting designer, an engineer-in-charge, a video shading/color technician, and four floor directors; nine on-camera students from Indiana, Minnesota and New Mexico; the vision of Ball State University and the support of the National Park Foundation and Best Buy Children’s Foundation; and the dedication of the staff of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

“In the year that we’ve been working with Ball State to make this field trip a reality, there was never a time that anyone on the staff said ‘No, that can’t be done.’” said Marjorie Thomas, Education Specialist at the park. “Park staff were very supportive of the project with everyone pitching in to help out—whether they were on camera, answering e-mails, laying cable, or covering schedules for others.”

On April 25, in celebration of National Park Week and this year’s theme of connecting children to America’s national parks, nearly 37 million students and teachers from all fifty states and seven countries participated in Ball State University’s Electronic Field Trip program *Exploring Nature’s Plumbing System* broadcast live from the Carlsbad Cavern’s natural entrance, four locations within the cave and Boston National Historical Park. The First Lady participated live from the Charlestown Navy Yard with 23 fourth grade students from Warren-Prescott School, NPS Director Mainella, National Park Foundation President and CEO Vin Cipolla, and Ball State University President Jo Ann Gora.

During the 90-minute interactive “field trip,” students from around the country were able to ask park staff

questions and learn how caves developed by creating their own “cave” out of clay and sugar cubes. Through the field trip, an on-line game and standards-based curriculum developed by teachers and park staff, students learned that caves are much more than nature’s plumbing system—they are sites of exploration, adventure, shelter and cutting-edge research.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is only the second national park unit to be highlighted in the ten years that Ball State University has been producing the electronic field trips. The first park was Grand Canyon National Park in 2004. The 2007 school year will feature three national park units: Independence National Historical Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Manzanar National Historic Site.

The electronic field trip at Carlsbad Caverns was brought to students around the country through Ball State University’s partnerships with the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation and the Best Buy Children’s Foundation.

The archived broadcast may be viewed at [http://ali.apple.com/ali\\_sites/ali/exhibits/1001737/](http://ali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/exhibits/1001737/).



NPS Photo/Ed Harris

Cave Tours see page 4



NPS Photo/John Cwiklik

Fall Colors Information see page 6

Inside This Issue	
Contact Information	2
Native Plant Corps	3
Camping Information	6
A Song of the Old West	7
Area Attractions	8





# Telephone and Web Directory

Official National Park Service sites include .gov in their web address.

## Carlsbad Caverns National Park

3225 National Parks Hwy  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
(505) 785-2232  
[www.nps.gov/cave](http://www.nps.gov/cave)

## Guadalupe Mountains National Park

400 Pine Canyon  
Salt Flat, Texas 79847  
(915) 828-3251  
[www.nps.gov/gumo](http://www.nps.gov/gumo)

## Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association

Operates both parks' bookstores.  
Books may also be purchased by mail or online.  
PO Box 1417  
Carlsbad, NM 88221  
(505) 785-2486  
(505) 785-2318 FAX  
[www.ccgma.org](http://www.ccgma.org)

## Food, Lodging, and Camping

**Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce:**  
(505) 887-6516  
[www.carlsbadchamber.com](http://www.carlsbadchamber.com)

## Van Horn, Texas Visitors Bureau:

(915) 283-2682  
[www.vanhornadvocate.com/  
communityad1.shtml](http://www.vanhornadvocate.com/communityad1.shtml)

## Weather Conditions

Carlsbad Weather Watch:  
(505) 885-1848

## Road Conditions

New Mexico: (800) 432-4269  
Texas: (800) 452-9292.

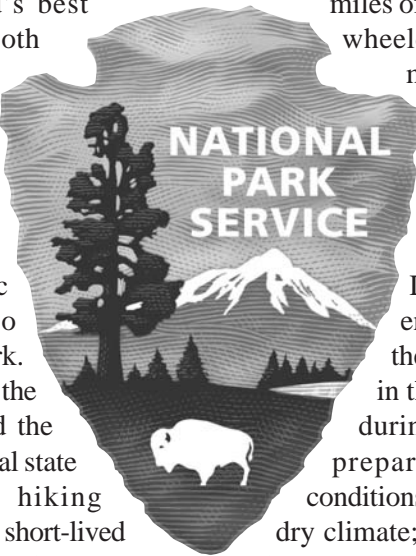
**Emergency:  
call 911.**

# Greetings!

Welcome to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, a World Heritage Site since 1995, features a spectacular cave system of highly decorated chambers. Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects one of the world's best examples of a fossilized reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life.

Fall and Winter bring their own special rewards. Mid-October to mid-November the colorful changes in maples, ash, and sumac delight thousands of visitors to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the summertime crowds are gone and the cave can be experienced in its natural state of quiet. Both parks offer hiking opportunities. Rare winter snows are short-lived events and can only add to the beauty of these natural areas.

The Park staff are here to help make your visit a truly memorable event. They will be happy to help you plan your visit and provide information. Guided tours at Carlsbad Caverns can enrich your park



experience. These tours offer a variety of caving experiences, from easy lantern tours to challenging trips involving crawling and squeezing through tight passages.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenuous mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile roundtrip hike to Texas' highest mountain Guadalupe Peak (8,749'). As you travel and spend time in the area, please remember to keep safety in mind. Road conditions may be icy. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful—enjoy watching wildlife, but remember they often move across roads, especially in the evenings; be vigilant while driving during twilight hours. Hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Hikers can become dehydrated in our dry climate; carry plenty of water. Always check with a ranger before venturing into the backcountry.

We are wholeheartedly committed to our mission of preserving and providing for the enjoyment of our nation's most outstanding treasures. We wish you a rewarding experience in every way.

John Benjamin  
Superintendent  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park

John V. Lujan  
Superintendent  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

# Thank You, Volunteers!

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated effort and talent that volunteers have brought to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of preserving our natural and cultural heritage and sharing that heritage with the visiting public. Volunteers do everything from staffing the information desk, roving interpretation, patrolling surface and cave trails, to trail maintenance, research, cave restoration, and more. To become a volunteer contact...

Carlsbad Caverns  
Dave Thomas  
(505) 785-3097

Guadalupe Mountains  
Doug Buehler  
(915) 828-3251 x105

# Traveling with A Pet?

On a warm day the temperature inside a car can kill a pet. Do not leave an animal unattended; the kennel is the only safe place for your pet.

At **Carlsbad Caverns**, pets are not permitted in the cave or at bat flight programs; during the day your pet may be cared for at the kennel for a small fee. A citation can be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70° Fahrenheit (21° Celsius) or higher.

At **Guadalupe Mountains**, pets are not allowed on trails, in the backcountry, in buildings, or at evening programs; they are permitted in the campground. In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.

# Junior and Senior Ranger Programs

Many national parks across America offer a Junior Ranger program for children to encourage interest in their national parks and to promote a sense of stewardship and ownership for these special places that they come to visit. This self-paced educational program allows the participant to earn a patch and/or certificate upon completion of required activities that teach the children about the park resources. Age appropriate activities are included in the Junior Ranger booklet, typically for pre-kindergarten through upper elementary-aged children.

Senior Ranger programs are a new development, currently available at limited locations. Aimed at an audience that enjoys a challenge and wants to use an activity book to learn about the park and help plan their visit. Participants earn a badge and a certificate as well. A Senior Ranger program is available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Junior Ranger program offers activities to teach about the resources both above ground and below the surface (including plant and animal life of the desert, cave features, and history of the park). Younger children have opportunities to color and draw, find specified objects on a visual scavenger hunt, use their senses to experience their surroundings, and complete games. Older children have opportunities to sequence events, complete word searches, and write stories and poems. Each activity in the booklet is an optional activity depending on interest and age-level. Once the booklet is checked by a park ranger, the participant is presented a Carlsbad Caverns National Park Junior Ranger patch.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available through the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association bookstore, located in the visitor center at the park. There is a charge of \$1.00 to participate in

the program, which includes the booklet and patch (given upon completion of the activities). Kids of any age may participate.

At Guadalupe Mountains, participants work through a separate activity booklet and visit points of interest within the park. The booklet accommodates families of varying travel plans. Many of the activities can be completed in the Pine Springs Visitor Center and Museum. Children who complete three activities earn a badge and certificate, while those who do six activities earn a patch in addition to the badge and certificate. There is no charge for participation in the program, but donations are always welcome.

Senior Ranger books are available at the Pine Springs Visitor Center. Activities include visiting sites, learning about the parks history, geology, flora and fauna. Upon completion, participants earn a badge and a certificate.





# Native Plant Corps More Than Pulling Weeds

by Jarred Shaw

NPS Photo/Jarred Shaw

Would you recognize an invasive and exotic plant? What about a weed? Perhaps you pluck “weeds” from your garden or lawn because they invade a space you have reserved for specific uses. Yet, some of these “weeds” are native to the area. Invasive and non-native plants are unwelcome in an undeveloped or wild habitat because they push out native species and use up limited resources, like water and minerals. They can threaten the survival of native species. Where exotic plants thrive, the landscape and habitat change. This change can cause a decline in the diversity of animals and may steal beauty from a scenic view. Luckily, hard-working volunteer interns are rescuing national parks and plant environments from these aggressive, green invaders.

From February to July 2006, a team of volunteers worked long hours in several national parks in the Chihuahuan Desert to improve natural areas overrun with exotic plants. This team, based out of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, had a lengthy name: Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Invasive Species Project. The project leader, Jarred Shaw, arrived before the rest of the team to plan their assignments; then trained and prepared the team for a successful internship. The team members were Eric Walker, Christina Cornett, Heather Carson, and Mike Messier.

The crew learned to work as a team while they inventoried, monitored, and removed exotic plants

and processed project-related data. They studied each plant species and its effect on an ecological landscape and habitat. In the field, the team worked ten hours per day, eight days in a row. Their duties were split between much-needed physical labor and educational outreach programs. Team members taught others about the Native Plant Corps’ goals and importance and recruited other participants. The SCA project provided additional training in various job-related skills, such as safe and proper use of chainsaws and pesticides. When not doing field work, the team explored other aspects of national parks, like cave resource protection, education and interpretation, exotic animal management, and preserving historic and cultural artifacts.

Participants state that taking part in managing fragile natural and cultural resources on public lands is both rewarding and an investment in the future. The volunteer experience is like on-the-job training for the high percentage of SCA interns who go into resource management careers with the National Park Service or affiliated agencies. Also, the team knows they have made a lasting change to the environment. Overall, the experience is a season of firsts. For most of the interns, it was the first time they lived and worked in a national park. They had an impressive introduction to the weather, tastes, and smells of the southwestern states. Also, they received their first extensive education in how to recognize an invasive and exotic plant.



Volunteers from the Student Conservation Association and National Park Employees worked together as the Exotic Plant Management Team.

NPS Photo/Jarred Shaw

## Upcoming Renovations

After nearly fifty years, it’s time for an update! Upon its completion in 1957, the Visitor Center at Carlsbad Caverns National Park was an example of modern conveniences and technology. However, the Visitor Center is now outdated and past due for a makeover. With the planning and design phases nearly complete, park superintendent John Benjamin announced that the park will begin renovating its visitor center in January 2007. “This project has been in the works for many years,” said Benjamin. “It’s a great feeling to see the hard work of so many people coming to fruition. The rehabilitated visitor center will be more visitor friendly and everything will work properly!”

Everyone entering Carlsbad Cavern must come through the visitor center, resulting in crowded conditions and difficult visitor-flow patterns. All of the building’s infrastructure components, such as heating and air conditioning, alarms, electrical, water and wastewater systems, have exceeded their useful life and no longer function effectively or efficiently. The entire building and infrastructure will be renovated; this includes the Cavern Supply Company’s restaurant and gift shop and the Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association bookstore as well.

While the building is under construction, park operations, including the concessioner and association, will move into temporary trailers in the parking lot. Cave tours will continue as usual. Visitors may continue to enter Carlsbad Cavern via elevator or by hiking the natural entrance trail. Each evening the park will close the entrance gate and reopen it in the morning.

The \$7.5-million project is funded through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (formerly Recreation Fee Demonstration) and is expected to take one year to complete. Construction specialists and park staff explored various renovation possibilities, including creating a new contact center by the highway instead of directly above the cave. This option proved to be too costly. Renovations will reduce human impacts on the surface and cave environments. In this example, change will be for the better.

## Winter Wonderland 2006

While snow piles around the Visitor Center, the cave stays the same temperature year-round. So, why would Carlsbad Caverns be a winter wonderland? This winter (2006) the park hopes to provide another cadre of special programs, much like the events offered last year.

In December 2005, guides led special programs in addition to the programs and tours through parts of Carlsbad Cavern offered daily. For instance, visitors took tours in the cave lit by lantern light alone much as early explorers did. Also, costumed guides explained the cave’s history and geology on a historical tour that recalled a tradition that spanned 1929 to 1944 – the *Rock of Ages Ceremony* – named for a towering cave formation. In the early days, cave guides showed visitors the Big Room in its natural state, total darkness. Then they led the group in singing the church hymn of the same name, *Rock of Ages*.

Ask a park ranger what tours and programs are available while you visit.





# Carlsbad Caverns

## Spring, Fall, & Winter Hours

Natural Entrance	8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Big Room	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Visitor Center	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Summer Hours (Memorial Day—Labor Day)

Natural Entrance	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Big Room	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Visitor Center	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

## Fees

### Entrance Fees

Adults—age 16 and over	\$6.00	Audio Guide plus \$3.00
Children—15 and younger	free	plus \$3.00

The National Parks Pass, Golden Age Passport, Golden Eagle Passport, and Golden Access Passport all cover the basic entrance fee.

Entrance fee applies to self-guided tours. Guided tours require an additional fee.

All fees and tours are subject to change at any time.

## Reservations

We recommend that you make reservations for guided tours at least six weeks in advance. Some tours fill quickly. Reservations are not necessary for self-guided tours. To make reservations call the National Park Reservation System at:

Reservations	(800) 967-CAVE (2283)
TDD	(888) 530-9796
Cancellations	(800) 388-2733

## Have a Safe Tour

Cave temperature is 56° F (13° C) year-round. A light jacket or sweater and good walking shoes are recommended. Do not wear sandals. For your safety:

- Stay on the paved trail.
- Supervise children closely; children under age 16 must remain with an adult at all times.
- Ask park rangers for help.
- Take prescribed medications with you.
- High humidity in the cave can affect respiratory problems; bring your **inhaler** just in case.
- If you are **DIABETIC**, be sure you have eaten enough calories.
- Leave your baby stroller in the car; child-carrying back packs are recommended.
- Leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car.

## Protect the Cave

- Never touch, tap, or handle the cave formations; the oils on your skin damage the formations.
- Never take gum, food, or drinks into the cave. Water only.
- Never use tobacco of any kind in the cave.
- Never throw coins or other objects into the pools.

## Photography

Photography is permitted on most tours; however, please use good etiquette. Warn those around you before you flash, keep tripods on the trail, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. Video cameras are permitted on the Big Room, Natural Entrance, and King’s Palace tours. Please use caution and do not use the ultra-bright lights available on some cameras. One place photography is not allowed is at the Bat Flight Programs offered from mid-May to mid-October.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

### Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route

Length: 1.25 miles, 1 hour  
Fee: Entrance fee  
This hike is similar to walking into a steep canyon (a descent of about 800 feet in one mile). It is recommended only for those physically fit and healthy; sturdy footwear required. Highlights include the Natural Entrance, Devil’s Spring, Whale’s Mouth, and Iceberg Rock.

### Rent the Cavern Audio Guide!

Just \$3.00, this guide will truly enhance your self-guided tours. It offers commentary by park rangers, researchers, and others who are knowledgeable about the cave’s science and history.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

### Big Room Self-Guided Route

Length: 1.25 miles, 1.5 hours  
Fee: Entrance fee  
Descend by elevator to start the tour in the Underground Rest Area. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Cavern should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion’s Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. This trail is partially accessible to visitors using wheelchairs, with assistance. The park does not provide wheelchairs. This trail can be accessed after hiking the 1.25 mile Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route.



Cavern Supply Company

### King’s Palace Guided Tour

Length: 1 mile, 1.5 hours  
Fee: Entrance fee and \$8.00 Tour Ticket  
Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area. Tickets may be purchased at the visitor center; however, reservations are recommended (call ahead). You will visit four highly decorated chambers: King’s Palace, Papoose Room, Queen’s Chamber, and Green Lake Room. The tour guide will turn out the lights for a blackout experience. The trail is paved; however, there is a steep hill that you must walk down and then back up.

# Surface Activities

### Services

Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, bookstore, restaurant, gift shop, and kennel service. Ranger programs are offered daily. Other activities include:

### Nature Trail

This one-mile paved, partially accessible trail begins near the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

### Scenic Drive

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5-mile gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except trailers and motor homes. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The Scenic Drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-May to mid-October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

### Rattlesnake Springs

This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms, and excellent bird watching. Located 5.5 miles south of White’s City on U.S. Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west on a signed county road. Day use only.

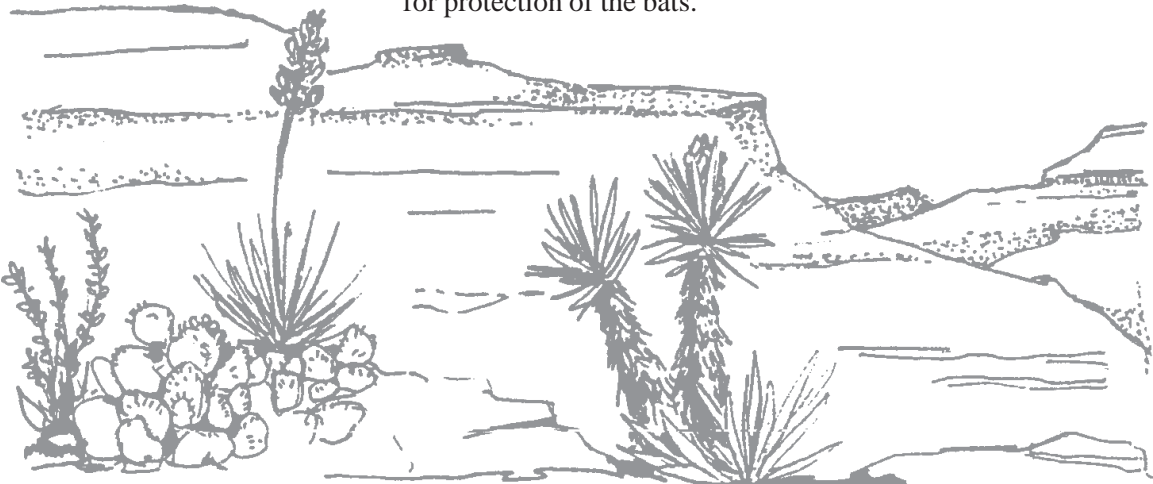
### Hiking & Camping

The park’s wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. The bookstore sells topographic maps, which are considered essential for desert hiking.

### Bat Flight Programs (Summer Only)

A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Caverns each evening from mid-May until the bats migrate to Mexico sometime in mid-October. The ranger program generally begins each evening 30 to 60 minutes before sunset at the park amphitheater,

though weather and lightning can cause cancellation of the program. Check at the Visitor Center for the exact time the program starts. **No Cameras** are allowed. The lights and high frequency sounds made by cameras disturb the bats. This rule is strictly enforced for protection of the bats.





# Carlsbad Caverns



**Left Hand Tunnel**

On this lantern-lit tour your guide will highlight cavern history, formations, cave pools, and Permian Age fossils. This is the easiest of the adventure tours on unpaved trails. Be aware that the dirt trail winds over small uneven or slippery slopes and careful footing is required to avoid cavern pools and fragile formations. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby.



**Slaughter Canyon Cave**

This moderately strenuous tour is through a well-decorated backcountry cave. It is mandatory for each person to bring a strong battery-powered flashlight with fresh batteries. Penlights are not sufficient. The route is slippery, muddy, and may require an ascent of a 15-foot slope using a knotted rope.

*Do not drive to the visitor center for this cave tour. Allow plenty of time to drive to Slaughter Canyon and 45 minutes for the steep and strenuous half-mile hike to the cave entrance. Attempt this hike only if you are in good health.*

Carry water—weather may be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the trail and wear sturdy hiking shoes. *Tours depart from the cave entrance at the scheduled time.*



**Lower Cave**

This moderately strenuous tour begins with a ranger supervised descent down a 10-foot flowstone slope using a knotted rope, followed by a 30-foot series of three ladders. Bring gloves and four AA alkaline batteries per person. The park provides helmets, headlamps and optional kneepads. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby. You will see evidence of early exploration, cave pools, and beautiful formations.



**Hall of the White Giant**

This is a strenuous, challenging tour to a remote chamber in Carlsbad Cavern. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices, and climb up slippery passages. Bring gloves and four AA batteries per person. We provide helmets, headlamps, and knee pads. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby.



**Spider Cave**

On this strenuous tour you can expect tight crawls, canyon-like passages, and bizarre formations. Bring gloves and four new AA batteries. The park provides helmets, headlamps, and kneepads. The tour departs from the Visitor Center for a short drive and then a short hike to the cave. Bring water for the hike.

**Cave Tour  
Reservations:  
800-967-2283**

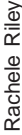
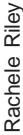
## Cave Watch

- Report illegal activities such as:
- Graffiti
  - Littering-including throwing items in cave pools
  - Touching/Breaking cave formations
  - Visitors traveling off of paved trails

Dial 3030 from any park phone or contact the nearest Park Ranger.

Tour	Trail Surface	Offered	Departure Time	Adult Fee	Age Limit	Tour Length	Group Size
King's Palace	Paved trail; 80' hill must be climbed on return trip	Daily	Fall-Spring 10 & 2  Summer 10,11, 2 & 3	Adults \$8 Golden Age \$4 Golden Access \$4 Children (6-15) \$4 Children (4-5) Free	4	1.5 hours	75
Left Hand Tunnel	Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes	Daily	9:00 am	\$7.00 and General Admission Ticket	6	2 hours	15
Slaughter Canyon Cave	Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven, and rocky	Saturday and Sunday (Tours offered daily in summer)	10:00 a.m.  Summer 10:00 & 1:00	\$15.00	6	2 hours	25
Lower Cave	Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, variable dirt trails, might get dirty	Monday through Friday	1:00 pm	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket	12	3 hours	12
Wild Caving – kneepads required!							
Hall of the White Giant	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Saturday	1:00 pm	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket	12	4 hours	8
Spider Cave	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Sunday	1:00 pm	\$20.00	12	4 hours	8





Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gasoline stations are 32 miles west or 35 miles east. There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

## Headquarters Visitor Center

Elevation 5,740'. On U.S. Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad and 110 miles east of El Paso. Open every day except Christmas. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day 8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.; Labor Day to Memorial Day 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M. Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

The ranch house features exhibits describing historic and current use of the Guadalupe. Grounds include a picnic area near a spring shaded by large oak trees. Restroom available. Staffed intermittently.

Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M., Mountain Standard Time; 8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M. Mountain Daylight Savings Time. Closing time changes when Daylight Savings Time begins and ends. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, slide program.

Water and restrooms are available; but there are no showers, RV hookups, or dump stations. The fee is \$8.00 per night, per site, \$4.00 with a Golden Age or Golden Access Passport. No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Located near the Headquarters Visitor Center, there are twenty tent and nineteen RV campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning (915) 828-3251.

Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and the desert. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Pets are not allowed on park trails. Firearms are not permitted within the park.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry.

Topographic maps, hikers' guides, and information can be found at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Trail-Head	Trail	Roundtrip length	Description
Visitor Center	Pinery Trail	0.75 mile	<b>Easy.</b> Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits; <b>wheelchair accessible</b> .
Pine Springs Camp-ground	Guadalupe Peak Trail	8.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> Hike to the “Top of Texas” at 8,749 feet, for spectacular views. Trail climbs 3,000 feet in elevation. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms.
	Devil’s Hall Trail	4.2 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Rocky hike in Pine Spring Canyon to the Hikers’ Staircase and Devil’s Hall. After the first mile the trail drops into the wash. Turn left and follow the canyon bottom to Devil’s Hall, where a sign marks the end of the trail.
	The Bowl	9.1 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> The Bowl shelters a high country conifer forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail to Pine Top, Bowl Trail to Hunter Peak, Bear Canyon Trail, Frijole Trail back to the campground. Trail climbs 2,500 feet in elevation.
	El Capitan Trail	11.3 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> Desert lovers will appreciate the rocky arroyos and open vistas while skirting along the base of El Capitan. Recommended Route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook Trail, and return on the El Capitan Trail. Beyond the Salt Basin Overlook the El Capitan Trail continues to Williams Ranch, an additional 4.7 miles one-way.
Frijole Ranch	Smith Springs Loop Trail	2.3 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Look for birds, deer, and elk as you pass Manzanita Spring on the way to the shady oasis of Smith Spring. Please do not drink the water or wade in the springs. The first 0.2 miles to Manzanita Springs is <b>wheelchair accessible</b> .
McKitt- rick Canyon	McKittrick Canyon Trail	4.8 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead. One mile beyond the Pratt Cabin is the Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin. Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek. To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.
	McKittrick Nature Loop	0.9 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.
	Permian Reef Trail	8.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guidebook sold at the Visitor Center. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the ridgetop. Trail climbs 2,000 feet in elevation.

- There is no water available along park trails, so be sure to bring plenty with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Trails are rocky—wear sturdy shoes.
- Carry a trail map.
- Pack warm clothing and rain gear; sudden weather changes are common.

- Stay on trails; don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.
- Carry out all trash, including cigarette butts.
- Report any trail hazards to the visitor center.
- Collecting of natural, historic, or prehistoric objects is not allowed.

This secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park is a great place to begin a backpacking trip for those coming through Carlsbad.

Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 110 miles from Park Headquarters, at an elevation of 6,290 feet. The campground has nine tent sites and four RV spaces.

**Easy.** 0.6 miles roundtrip.  
A guide booklet describes ecology and geology.

Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridge-top for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 800 feet in elevation.

Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the conifer forest above. Outstanding views from Lost Peak. Trail climbs 1,500 feet in elevation.

Weather	Temperatures (F.)		Rainfall
	Average High	Average Low	Average Inches
Jan	53	30	1.04
Feb	58	35	1.04
March	63	38	0.87
April	71	46	0.57
May	78	55	1.26
June	88	63	1.48
July	87	63	3.08
Aug	84	62	3.77
Sept	78	57	5.22
Oct	71	49	1.41
Nov	61	38	0.65
Dec	57	33	0.67
Average annual precipitation is 21.06 inches.			
Pine Springs Weather Station, Guadalupe Mountains			
National Park, elevation 5,500'.			



# A Song of the Old West

by Doug Buehler

On a moonlit summer night in the distance howling, barking, yipping sounds stir the night air. The sound of coyotes, which may represent the most recognizable natural animal sound in the West. Many times the coyote is thought of as the beleaguered creature that never catches the roadrunner or as a threat to livestock. In the natural scheme of things the coyote is a wily creature who plays an important role in maintaining balance in a desert ecosystem found at Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

This dog-like animal with its long bushy tail can flash into sight suddenly and disappear just as quickly. If one word could describe a coyote what would you pick? I would say adaptable. Adaptable to a wide variety of living situations. It is a real survivor. The only large terrestrial land mammal that may be more adaptable is YOU. One reason for its ability to adapt is the variety of things which makes up its diet. You name it and it probably eats it. Try lizards, berries, road kill, roots, deer, grass; they are primarily meat eaters, but can exist on plants also. So regardless of what the conditions the coyote can usually find sometime to eat, which is real advantageous in a harsh, rugged desert. Rodents make up a major portion of their diet. They actually help keep the rodent population under control. Too many rodents can cause major problems in an ecosystem. They are efficient hunters and somewhat social in their interactions with themselves and other critters such as badgers. In fact coyotes are known to share a rabbit meal with a badger and in return when the badger digs out rodents the coyote can quickly grab the hapless creatures. Coyotes at times hunt in pairs. One will chase a rabbit. Coyotes can reach speeds up to 40 MPH, for short distances. The other will consistently cut off the rabbit and keep it moving at a fast pace. Eventually the rabbit will become exhausted and is relatively easy to catch at that point. To aid in catching prey a coyote can bound 14 feet and jump over an 8 foot barrier such as a fence.

Communication is a big part of their social life. Many have heard sounds of the coyote in person or on film. The different sounds have specific objectives: A **howl** means “I am here”, **yelping**, usually involves younger animals, is a celebration(maybe of a clear, desert sky) or agitation, a **bark** relates to a threat or protection and **huffing** is ...*WARRIORS continued from pg. 1* reports of Capt. Lebo. Buttons from a uniform and a tent fly were also found. The arrangement of the hearths also provides clues to understanding the area’s history. Hearths appear in two differently oriented lines, suggesting a return trip to the same area. One hearth had a rectangular, boxlike rock oven. Inside was a large amount of ash and a reusable can lid. Possibly, this oven was used for baking and the lid was from a can of baking soda. During the first season of work, Tribal Elders from the Mescalero Tribe, shared their knowledge with the researchers. According to them, the Lipan Apache who were also in this area, learned how to build this type of oven from Pueblos. It is unknown for certainty whether this oven was built by the soldiers or by an Apache and then reused by the soldiers.

Away from the line of hearths, researchers mapped and documented some interesting outlying structures. One hearth on a rocky knoll provided a commanding view of the camp below and the surrounding terrain. This fact and the presence of a picket line nearby suggests that this area may have housed an officer. Military reports do not provide enough information to verify this.

a quiet sound adults use in calling pups. The combination of these sounds on a given night is truly “A Song of the Old West” that humans have heard for eons of time. Coyotes also communicate with the position and movement of their large ears. Territory is established by vocal sounds and marking areas with urine. A coyote can have a range of 12 square miles. If you want to be successful in the wild world of the desert take lessons from the coyote; hunt at night when it is cooler, be willing to eat a wide variety of food, team up with others to catch prey, run 40 MPH, jump over 8 foot barriers and howl at the moon for good luck.

Coyotes usually mate for life. A female coyote has a litter of 3 to 6 pups in the spring. Usually only one makes it to adulthood. A mature coyote has few enemies in the wild, but pups are susceptible to predators such as eagles, and large meat eating mammals like mountain lions. To help protect its young a female coyote will use several dens. She can quickly move the pups when necessary to another location. To insure the pups receive enough food, an adult can carry food 10 miles, eating it along the way and then regurgitate it for the family.

Truly the coyote is an icon of the West. It seems to have traits such as guile, cunning, ingenuity and tenacity which enable it to survive under harsh conditions. Many of these traits could probably be applied to us, especially in the settling of the West. In fact we may have as much in common with coyotes as with any other animal in the desert. Perhaps this is the reason coyotes have had a certain appeal both good and bad to the western landscape. Take advantage of the wide open spaces of the West, stop for a moment on a full moon night and see if you can hear “A Song of the

---

Researchers discovered a couple of buildings near and old wagon road that led to the spring. Each had a chimney-like structure, now collapsed, associated with it. Were these buildings used for storage? Wagon wheels and horseshoes were found near one. Perhaps a blacksmith worked here. One of these buildings may have been a surgery. Military reports document that occasionally a blacksmith and/or surgeon toured with the cavalry. Further research is needed to answer these questions.

As one walks the Pinery Trail to the Butterfield Stage Station Ruins or the Foothills and Frijole Trails, one becomes aware of an odd juxtaposition. The modern highway 62/180 is a constant reminder of how much our society and land have changed, while the high rocky ridges of the Guadalupe have changed little since Apaches and Buffalo Soldiers last looked at them. The tempo of modern life keeps us preoccupied with trivia, while the events that have brought us to where we are and the stories we tell ourselves to understand our history wait to be told. As our society rushes forward to an uncertain future, where conflict looms large, one group of students and researchers is working to move from past conflict to shared understanding. Let’s hope we can all learn something from their efforts.



Coyotes in the desert Southwest have proven to be very adaptable and intelligent animals.

NPS Photo/Doug Buehler

West” and reflect what it represent; a animal successfully adapting to the world around it.

## Fall Colors

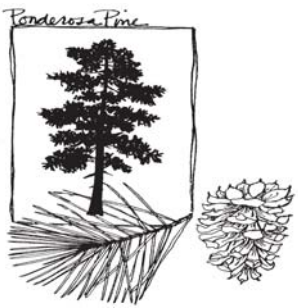
In a land characterized by aridity and stark beauty, the color that abounds in McKittrick Canyon is truly surprising. Graced by a winding stream and level hiking trail, McKittrick Canyon is one of the most popular hiking spots in the park. The fall color display consists of maples, ashes, walnuts, and oaks. A variety of factors cause the leaves to change their color making it impossible to predict from year to year when the best color will be. Typically, the latter part of October and early November are good times to see this seasonal phenomenon.

Daytime temperatures average in the 70’s, but it can be much colder. On occasion, it has snowed in early October. Plan on bringing clothing for a variety of weather conditions. The recommended hike for the best color viewing is to go to the Grotto and back, a 6.8 mile, 4-6 hour, round trip hike. If that sounds too far, hike to the Pratt Cabin, 4.8 miles, 2.5 to 3.5 hours round trip. The trail is relatively level, but rocky. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Plan on carrying plenty of drinking water and any food you may need. Sunscreen is recommended.

Weekends can be busy during the October and November. Consider visiting during the week. McKittrick Canyon is open 8-6 p.m. until Daylight Savings Time ends, at which time the canyon closes at 4:30 p.m. Devil'sHall and Dog Canyon are alternative, less busy, areas to visit. Call 915-828-3251for updates on the status of fall colors.



# Area Attractions



## Brantley Lake State Park

(505) 457-2384  
Open all year—24 hours/day.  
Wheelchair accessible.

**Fees**  
Day Use Only—\$5.00/vehicle  
Camping—\$14.00/night  
(\$10.00 fee for each additional vehicle driven into same site)  
Primitive Camping Area—\$8.00 per vehicle/night

Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. 285, the campground has 51 sites with water and RV electric hookups (a few with sewer), a dump station, playground, restroom with hot showers, shelters, tables, and grills.

Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered tables and grills, playground, a fishing dock, boat ramps with docks, and a visitor center.

## Living Desert State Park

(505) 887-5516  
Open daily except December 25.  
Wheelchair accessible.

**Fees**  
Ages 13 and up—\$5.00  
Children 7 to 12—\$3.00  
Children 6 and under—free  
Group(20+) discounts available.

**Winter Hours**  
Labor Day to Memorial Day  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Last tour entry—3:30 p.m.

Come face to face with a mountain lion at this unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, New Mexico's state bird. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of Carlsbad, just off Highway 285 and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.



**Summer Hours**  
Memorial Day to Labor Day  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Last tour entry—6:30 p.m.

## Lincoln National Forest

(505) 885-4181  
The forest encompasses 285,000 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing.

Maps are available at the Guadalupe Ranger District Office located in the Federal Building, 114 S. Halagueno, Room 159, in Carlsbad.

**Sitting Bull Falls**  
Wheelchair accessible.  
Day use only—no camping.  
Entrance fee—\$5.00 per car.

Seven miles southwest of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 276, this 130 foot falls is one of the highest in New Mexico. Picnic area, trails, and restroom.

**Five Points Vista**  
Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.

